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Draft report

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Addendum

Programme questions: evaluation (item 4 (e))

Report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on the triennial review of the implementation of the recommendations made by the Committee for Programme and Coordination at its thirty-fifth session on the evaluation of peacekeeping operations: start-up phase

1. At its 4th, 5th and 10th meetings on 2 and 5 June 1998, the Committee considered the report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services entitled "Triennial review of the implementation of the recommendations made by the Committee for Programme and Coordination at its thirty-fifth session on the evaluation of peacekeeping operations: start-up phase", transmitted under cover of a note by the Secretary-General stating his concurrence with the recommendations contained in the report (E/AC.51/1998/4).

Discussion

2. It was noted with appreciation that some evaluation recommendations had been implemented; it was also noted, however, that the implementation effort should be more thorough. The thrust of the report pinpointing deficiencies in implementation was noted. The view was expressed that much work appeared necessary to fulfil the recommendations from previous reports. While it was noted with satisfaction that the Resource Centre had been established, there was concern that the problems which are preventing the full use of the resources had not been addressed as yet. Concern was also expressed that the Guideline Standard Operating Procedures for the military component of peacekeeping operations had not been updated.

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3. It was noted that progress had been made in improving the standby arrangements referred to in paragraph 33 of the report. However, it was underscored that the Standby Forces High-Readiness Brigade (SHIRBRIG) referred to in paragraph 34 of the report should not be misconstrued as being a United Nations brigade. It was further underscored that the reference to SHIRBRIG should not have been included in the report. The view was expressed that it had no relevance to the United Nations standby arrangements.

4. The deficiencies that still remained in the procurement system were discussed, and emphasis was placed on the critical importance of efficient, transparent and cost-effective procurement of goods and services in support of peacekeeping operations. Concern was expressed that the field administration manual and the operational support manual were not yet in final form. The need for broadening the geographical base of the supplier roster and the procurement of goos and services on as wide a geographical basis as possible was emphasized. It was observed that a recommendation should have been made on procurement, as this area needed a lot of improvement.

5. Other topics discussed in the debate included the functioning and funding of the Lessons Learned Unit, the repatriation of civil police officers and military observers, the issue of gratis personnel and the adequacy of the resources of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, the nature and scope of training activities in the Department, the nature of rosters maintained by the Department and the status of the analytical budgeting system for peacekeeping operations. Regarding the repatriation of unqualified civilian police monitors, the view was expressed that the monitors should be tested in their respective countries before arrival in the mission area to avoid unnecessary expenses being borne by the police contributors.

6. The view was expressed that recommendation 3 did not conform with existing procedures. The Lessons Learned Unit did not have the mandate to modify existing policies and procedures; it could make recommendations to the relevant intergovernmental bodies for their consideration and approval. The recommendation, therefore, needed to be revised.

7. The view was expressed that monitoring of human rights could not be a component of the peacekeeping operations.

8. It was stated that there should be better coordination among departments in the Secretariat on the human rights component of peacekeeping operations, in particular there was a need for better training for personnel on human rights issues and more effective recruitment of human rights personnel for field operations.

Conclusions and recommendations

9. There was agreement in the Committee on the continued importance and relevance of peacekeeping operations.

10. The Committee recalled that in recent experience some peacekeeping operations had been mandated to include multiple tasks. The Committee recommended that consideration be given to the impact of this on the operations of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations.

11. The Committee endorsed recommendations 1 to 7 contained in section III of the report on the understanding that the Lessons Learned Unit did not have the mandate to modify existing policies and procedures that require intergovernmental concurrence.

12. As to recommendation 5 of the original evaluation (E/AC.51/1995/2 and Corr.1), the Committee reiterated its conclusion arrived at at its thirty-fifth session that the recommendation needed to be examined further by the relevant intergovernmental bodies.